

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 66

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish and protect the rights of victims of violent crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Mr. CHABOT introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish and protect the rights of victims of violent crimes.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
4 *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*
5 *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*
6 *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*
7 *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*
8 *States within seven years after the date of its submission*
9 *for ratification, and which shall take effect 180 days after*
10 *ratification by the required number of States:*

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Without denying or abridging the con-
3 stitutional rights of those accused of committing a violent
4 crime, the rights of victims of violent crime are hereby
5 established and shall not be denied by any State or the
6 United States and may be restricted only as provided in
7 this article.

8 “SECTION 2. A victim of violent crime shall have the
9 right to reasonable and timely notice of any public pro-
10 ceeding involving the crime and of any release or escape
11 of the accused; the right not to be excluded from such
12 public proceeding; the right reasonably to be heard at pub-
13 lic release, plea, sentencing, reprieve, and pardon pro-
14 ceedings; and the right to adjudicative decisions that duly
15 consider the victim’s safety, interest in avoiding unreason-
16 able delay, and just and timely claims to restitution from
17 the offender. These rights shall not be restricted except
18 when, and to the degree dictated by, a substantial interest
19 in public safety or the administration of criminal justice
20 requires such restrictions, or by other compelling neces-
21 sity.

22 “SECTION 3. Nothing in this article shall be con-
23 strued to provide grounds for a new trial or to authorize
24 any claim for damages. Only the victim or the victim’s
25 lawful representative may assert the rights established by

1 this article, and no person accused of the crime may obtain
2 any form of relief hereunder.

3 “SECTION 4. Congress shall have power to enforce
4 this article by appropriate legislation. Nothing in this arti-
5 cle shall affect the President’s authority to grant reprieves
6 or pardons.”.

